VI.—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) THE MADRAS PRIVATE FORESTS (ASSUMPTION OF MANAGEMENT) BILL, 1961.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to announce to the House that the Governor has given his recommendation for the consideration in the Legislative Assembly of the Madras Private Forests (Assumption of Management) Bill, 1961.

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILLS—*cont.*

(3) THE MADRAS PRIVATE FORESTS (ASSUMPTION OF MANAGEMENT) BILL, 1961.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras Private Forests (Assumption of Management) Bill, 1961 and move—

" That the Bill be taken into consideration."

The forest wealth of the Gudalur and Ootacamund taluks of the Nilgiris district is being depleted by the action of the owners of private forests. It is considered necessary to take over the management of the private forests in the Gudalur and Ootacamund taluks of the Nilgiris district for a limited period in the public interest in order to secure proper management of such forests. This Bill seeks to give effect to the above objects. I request the House to accept this motion.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved—

" That the Madras Private Forests (Assumption of Management) Bill, 1961, be taken into consideration ".

* SRI R. SRINIVASA IYER : While welcoming this Bill I would like to say a few words about the provisions contained in this Bill. It is proposed to take possession of private forests in Gudalur and Ootacamund taluks for a period of ten years from the date of notification of this Act or notification in respect of each individual forest. It is stated that this is being done in public interest or in order to secure proper management of such forests. These two words, viz., ' public interest' or ' public purposes ' are two words about which there has been a lot of controversy as to what constitute 'public purpose' or 'public interest' and what not. Courts like the Supreme Court or Privy Council have given different interpretations about these two words, giving a loophole to persons interested, in delaying the operation of legislation intended for the benefit of the public. I know for each and every thing one could file a writ in the High Court and could take Government to Courts and delay matters. Yet we have got to consider whether it is not proper to omit such words if they are not absolutely necessary. Government is entitled to take possession of private property for proper and efficient management as